

**POPULATION SUBGROUP ANALYSIS #3
TENNESSEE ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND OTHER DRUG NEEDS ASSESSMENT
SURVEY, 1993**

Comparisons of Young Adult High School Leavers and Stayers in Tennessee

**Sponsored by the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services,
Tennessee Department of Health
and Conducted by the Community Health Research Group
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Little is known about how young adults who have not completed high school might differ from young adults who are high school graduates. This study examines random sample survey data on young adults in Tennessee to learn how these two groups differ in terms of their socioeconomic status, health status, and levels and patterns of use of alcohol and other drugs, including abuse problems and treatment needs. These are important personal characteristics that contribute to quality of life and ability to be a contributing member of society. Knowing how these two groups are similar or different in these characteristics can help public and private agencies better tailor interventions to provide needed services.

For the purposes of this study young adults are defined as persons between the ages of 18 and 34 years. High school leavers are young adults who left high school before graduating or obtaining a GED. High school graduates are young adults who graduated from high school or received a GED.

Data for this study were taken from the Tennessee Alcohol and Other Drug Needs Assessment Survey. The study was a random digit dial telephone survey of 8000 Tennessee adults ages 18 and over conducted in 1993 by the Community Health Research Group at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The study was sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Health, Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services. Young adults comprised 45% of the survey sample. School leavers represented 13% of this young adult group.

Bivariate analyses using difference of proportions and means tests were used to identify significant differences between the two groups. Stepwise logistic regression was also used to highlight differences between the two groups while controlling for the joint effects of other variables. Logistic regression was also used to examine differences by sex between the two groups for the range of characteristics. This latter procedure documented whether a cadre of significant predictor variables were salient for school